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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/059,909	01/29/2002	Edgar B. Cahoon	BB1333 USCIP	8547

23906 7590 04/27/2004

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EXAMINER

BUI, PHUONG T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1638

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/059,909	CAHOON ET AL.	
	Examiner Phuong T. Bui	Art Unit 1638	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-13 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/29/02.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Office acknowledges the receipt of Applicant's restriction election and amendment filed February 25, 2004. Applicant elects Group I and SEQ ID NO:15 encoding SEQ ID NO:16. No traversal was presented. Accordingly, this election is treated as without traverse. The restriction is made final. Claims 1-13 are pending and are examined in the instant Office action.

Sequence Listing

2. Applicant's CRF and paper sequence listing have been entered. However, upon examination of SEQ ID NO:15 and its corresponding amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:16, it is unclear what region of SEQ ID NO:15 encodes SEQ ID NO:16. Clarification is required.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449, Paper No. 5 is attached to the instant Office action.

Specification

4. Applicant is required to update the status of CIP parent application 09/501422 on the first page of the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-4 and 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims reciting 80-95% sequence identity lack adequate written description because Applicant does not disclose a representative number of species as encompassed by these claims. The claims encompass mutants and allelic variants and thus imply that structural variants exist in nature, yet no structural variant has been disclosed. The claims also encompass lipoxygenases from other species. The implication is that there is a gene and a protein other than that disclosed which exists in nature, but the structure thereof is not known. Applicant discloses a single sequence SEQ ID NO:15 isolated from *Zea mays*. Thus, there are insufficient relevant identifying characteristics to allow one skilled in the art to predictably determine such mutants, allelic variants and lipoxygenases from other plants and organisms, absent further guidance. Accordingly, there is lack of adequate description to inform a skilled artisan that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing. See Written Description guidelines published in Federal Register/ Vol.66, No. 4/ Friday, January 5, 2001/ Notices; p. 1099-1111.

7. Claims 1-4 and 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for SEQ ID NO:15 or a sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:16, does not reasonably provide enablement for sequence encoding polypeptides having less than 100% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:16. The

specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. Claims reciting less than 100% sequence identity are not enabled because they encompass unspecified base deletions, additions, substitutions, and combinations thereof while retaining enzymatic activity. Neither the state of the prior art nor Applicant provides guidance as to which region(s) of SEQ ID NO:15 or 16 are conserved domains necessary for protein activity. Applicant provided no working examples of sequences having less than 100% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:16 which retains enzyme activity. While one skilled in the art can readily make base changes, further guidance is necessary as to what changes would be tolerated without undue experimentation. Accordingly, the claimed invention is not enabled.

Remarks

8. Claims 5-6 are objected as being dependent on rejected claims but would be allowable if rewritten as independent claims. SEQ ID NO:15 and a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:16 are free of the prior art. It is understood by the Office the Clustal alignment method recited in the claims uses the default parameters set forth on pages 27, line 27 to page 28, lines 1-2 of the specification. The closest prior art teaches a sequence isolated from *Hordeum vulgare* having 71.1% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:16 (Table 5, p. 27; and Van Mechelen et al., National Center for Biotechnology Information General Identifier No: 2182267, 7/6/99 (Applicant's IDS)).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong T. Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-0793. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson can be reached on 571-272-0804. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Phuong T. Bui
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1638

4/21/04